9. Cardinall G-5 (ca. 1920)1924 FE11 Tallensi FE11

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[title page]

9: Cardinall G-5 (ca. 1920) 1924 FE11 Tallensi FE11

The Division of the Year among the Talansi of the Gold Coast. 47

By A. W. Cardinall.

805 192

Among the Talansi, a hill tribe of mixed origin living in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, close to the 11th parallel North, the following divisions in the year are recognised. They do not actually correspond to months or moons, but are periods of time or seasons recognisable by all. They depend on the fall of the rain, which is far from being regular:—

	Approximate Period.	Explanation.
1. Kodo *	- December to end January	- The cold season—no particular meaning to the word, which is a proper name.

690

* Beri. The Kanuri-speaking inhabitants of Bornu are called Buriberi by Hausa and other peoples, indicating a former and very ancient connection with the Berber.

9: Cardinall G-5 (ca. 1920)1924 FE11 Tallensi FE11

	Approximate Period.	Explanation.
2. Gunfuku	February	Gun', gunga—kapok tree. fuku—blowing of the wind. The period when the kapok pods ripen. This is evidence of the Dagomba extraction of this people, since kapok is, undoubtedly, a southern production. Their own tradition says they came from the south as a result of interfamily wars.
3. Gologu	March	This is the name of a festival which takes place shortly after full moon. In 1921 the ceremonial dancing and symbolic planting of corn, which I witnessed by good luck, took place on March 1st. In 1922 about March 13th.
4. Sionbeo	End of March or early April	Time of early planting. Sion—making holes in which to drop the grains. beo—poor. At this time it is not certain if the dry season will not return for a period and so dry up the first shoots.
5. Sionsongo	April and May	The time of good planting. songo—good. This is the proper planting time.
6. Sionyio	Late May and early June	The time of late planting. yio—conveys an idea of doubt. Planting at this time may or may not have a result.
7. Narechag	Late June and early July	Early millet harvest. Nare—early millet. chag'—cut.
8. Nabiri	Late July, mid August	Na'—early millet. biri—small. The time for eating the small ears of early millet, which are not put in the granary owing to their smallness.
9. Komwanrega	August-September	Kom—water. wanreg'—month or moon. The period of heavy rain.

9: Cardinall G-5 (ca. 1920)1924 FE11 Tallensi FE11

805
192

	Approximate Period.	Explanation.
10. Dawanrega	September—late September, early October.	Da—market. After the harvesting of the dark red or early guinea-corn, the Bari people of the Talansi tribe hold a great festival, during which they sacrifice to the spirit of their market-place. Bari is the largest market in their country. At this time, too, it is usual everywhere to sacrifice to the earth gods and departed ancestors.
11. Tenlebgre	Mid October	Beginning of the dry season. Ten',-tenga—earth. lebgre—has changed.
12. Chibunfu	November	Harvesting season. Chi—guinea corn. bunfu—knife with which the ears are cut off the standing stalks.

[527
782]

104 The orthography is that of an educated native of these parts.

A. W. CARDINALL.

[p. 63]